# Newspaper Clips
## Sept. 3, 2015

# IIT-I diector professor Mathur's tenure renewed for 5 years

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/IIT-I-diector-professor-Mathurs-tenure-renewed-for-5-years/articleshow/48783919.cms

INDORE: Tenure of professor Pradeep Mathur, director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-I) was renewed for another five years by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on Wednesday.

Confirming renewal of tenure, institute media coordinator Nirmala Menon said MHRD renewed tenure of Prof Mathur as the director from January 1, 2015. Mathur will be director of the institution till 2020.

Mathur took over as the director since the institute came into existence in 2009. His term had expired on December 31 last year, but was asked to continue till next order.

In March 2015, a four-member expert team had visited IIT-Indore to review performance of Prof Mathur and progress of the institute.

A committee, led by nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar and three others had reviewed the campus and its progress in last five years and submitted a report to MHRD. On the basis of report, the government decided to renew tenure of institution's director.

# IIT-BHU ने बनाई ऐसी मशीन, जो कचरे को बना देती है पेट्रोलियम

http://www.amarujala.com/feature/samachar/national/iit-bhu-made-a-machine-to-make-petroleum-from-garbage-hindi-news/

आईआईटी बीएचयू ने प्लास्टिक के कचरे को पेट्रोलियम में तब्दील करने वाली मशीन तैयार की है। इस मशीन की मदद से प्लास्टिक के कचरे से द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम तैयार किया जा सकता है। इस द्रव्य पेट्रोलियम का फरनेस ऑयल के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।

सबसे खास कि इस पेट्रोलियम की कीमत दूसरे पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की अपेक्षा बेहद कम है। आईआईटी बीएचयू के इस अनोखे प्रयास से न सिर्फ पर्यावरण को पॉलीथिन मुक्त बनाने में मदद मिलेगी, बल्कि ईंधन की कमी को भी कुछ हद तक पूरा किया जा सकेगा।

प्लास्टिक से पर्यावरण को होने वाले नुकसान से हर कोई वाकिफ है, बावजूद इसके प्लास्टिक के इस्तेमाल पर रोक नहीं लग पाई है। ऐसे में आईआईटी बीएचयू ने 'स्वच्छ वाराणसी परियोजना' के तहत प्लास्टिक के कचरे को रिसाइकल करने के उद्देश्य से एक प्रोजेक्ट तैयार किया।

# AFTER IIT-IIMs, GOVT WANTS AMENDMENTS TO THE NIT ACT

**Brajesh Kumar**
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**NEW DELHI:** The human resource development ministry has sought to amend the national institute of technology (NIT) act, in what appears to be an attempt to position itself as arbiter in internal disputes in institutions such as IITs and IIMs.

The ministry's move has raised eyebrows as it had already drawn flak for its alleged interference in the functioning of such autonomous institutions.

NITs are autonomous institutions protected by an act and the ministry's role is limited to appointing the director and the chairperson. Beyond this, it can play only an advisory role.

The ministry spokesperson denied any attempt to amend the act.

But proposals discussed in the ministry suggest the NIT act should be amended to empower the government to play arbiter in cases where internal disputes hamper the functioning of institutes, sources said.

Other changes under consideration include limiting the five-year term of director and chairperson to a maximum of two stints. At present, both positions have no fixed term and the director and chairperson can hold the position till the age of 70.

Also being discussed is whether some criteria can be fixed for selection of the chairperson. As of now, the ministry can appoint any person of eminence as chairperson.

When contacted, the ministry spokesperson said the information was "not true". But sources said the proposed changes will be discussed at a NIT council meeting scheduled for next month.

The move could invite criticism just as the IIM bill did as it gave sweeping powers to the government.

**Financial Chronicle ND 03/09/2015    P-1**

# Centre set to scrap 60:40 norm for NITs

## Relief for 1.3 million students trapped by faulty selection norm

AMITA SHARMA
*New Delhi*

A COMMITTEE set up by the ministry of human resource development to review the policy determining the rank obtained by a candidate for selection to the national institutes of technology (NITs) has recommended that the policy of assigning weightage to marks obtained in the twelfth board exam be scrapped. Instead, candidates should be selected exclusively on the basis of ranks in the joint entrance exam – main (JEE-Main), highly reliable sources in the government told *Financial Chronicle*.

More than 1.3 million students take the JEE-Main exam every year, of which, almost 30,000 are admitted to NITs, while another 10,000 find berth at the prestigious IITs.

The selection criterion for students to IITs and NITs was revised in 2012, when HRD minister in the UPA government Kapil Sibal introduced the policy of giving weightage to twelfth board exams while computing the final rank of JEE-Main. The revised selection criterion, called the 60:40 formula, implied that 40 per cent weightage would be given to marks obtained in twelfth boards, with JEE-Main accounting for 60 per cent.

The formula was imposed in the belief that students would pay more attention to board exams instead of spending time at coaching institutes. IITs found a smart way to cir-

### Testing times

■ 60:40 formula gave 40% weightage to twelfth boards and 60% to JEE-Main ranks

■ More than 1.3m take JEE-Main exam every year, of which, 30k go to NITs, and 10k to IITs

■ Govt wants to scrap 60:40 method since it's hard to normalise marks across boards

cumvent the norm within a year of implementation, but the NITs were trapped by the selection procedure.

The incumbent BJP government wants to scrap this method and had set up a committee to find a way out. Since state exam boards have a high degree of variability, it becomes difficult to normalise marks across boards, specially when one considers that the five subjects to be used for normalisation are physics, mathematics; either chemistry, biology or a vocational subject; one language, and any subject other than these.

# 60:40 weightage must be scrapped from JEE

THE 2012 JEE policy also stipulated that admission to IITs would factor in not just the score in JEE — Advance, but the qualifying candidate would also have to be in the top 20 percentile of class XII board exam in the state where she or he appeared.

The twelfth board is a graduating exam against percentage norms, whereas JEE is a competitive exam that eliminates on the basis of scores. So, the very underpinning of the two exam systems is different.

Although intended to make students pay more at-

tention to their school course, and reduce the role of coaching classes, it did not dent the coaching system, and instead caused heartbreaks, as many candidates who scored high in JEE lost out to those with negative marks in JEE, but high scores of, say 97 per cent, in their twelfth board exams.

The IITs eased this unfair situation after one year of implementing the policy by modifying the qualifying criteria for JEE — Advance 2015, to top 20 percentile or 75 per cent in the twelfth board exam. This applies where the last cut-off for top 20 percentile is more than 75 per cent.

The NITs, however, are still wedged between the 60:40 weightage of JEE-twelfth board scores, causing considerable resentment among students.

In 2003, the regional engineering colleges were converted to centrally-funded technical institutes called NITs, which now number 30, with one in each state. They are sought-after destinations of students pursuing undergraduate engineering education, with several students opting for a preferred engineering branch like computer science and engineering at an NIT to a not-so-preferred discipline at an IIT.

**LAUNCH PAD**

# Sanitary napkins made from jute can inject life into the industry

**HT EXCLUSIVE**

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**KOLKATA:** Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, have created sterilised sanitary napkins from jute-based cellulose that can bring down the number of cervical cancer cases in the country, and could potentially revive the moribund jute industry.

"Sanitary napkins are made from imported cotton or wood cellulose. But now, scientists from IIT-Kharagpur have managed to extract cellulose from jute, which is being used to make sanitary napkins," Arvind Kumar M, secretary of the National Jute Board (NJB) that funded the project, told HT on Tuesday.

Over the last five months,

## NEW WINGS

- IIT-Kharagpur invented sterilised sanitary napkins made from jute-based cellulose
- If marketed, the new product could tap a portion of the ₹2,000-cr personal hygiene market
- It could bring down the number of cervical cancer cases

trials for the product have been held; the results have been "extremely encouraging".

"The napkins were made to pass cyto-toxicity tests to see if there was any bacterial contamination. We found none. The napkins were sterilised with UV rays in a chamber, before they were packed. We also consulted the state drug control board before trying the products," said B Adhikary, a key face of

the project and a professor at the Material Science Centre at IIT-Kharagpur. NJB has been trying to reinvent the way jute is used — ranging from home décor to geotextiles that could be used to construct roads.

"If marketed properly, this product can tap a portion of the ₹2,000 crore personal hygiene market for women in India. Secondly, it could sharply bring down the number of cervical cancer cases," an NJB official said.

The jute industry comprises 60 mills, close to three lakh and about four million jute cultivators. However, due to complete lack of demand the industry is gasping for breath.

There are plans to transfer the technology used the IIT scientists to create the napkins to the India Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA), which would then take the assistance of self-help groups to manufacture the product.

# 50% educated students not employable: Survey

**HT Correspondent**

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**NEW DELHI:** More than half of Indian students do not possess the skills required for employment even though they are educated, teachers said in a recent survey.

Teachers said that 57 % of students in the country are educated but not adequately prepared for employment. The survey also said that 75 % teachers have called for restructuring of course curriculum in collaboration with industry.

The Pearson Voice of Teacher Survey also found that teachers in Delhi do not think that the education system in the country is providing holistic education to students. "Only 46 % of teachers in the Capital feel that education system is providing holistic education," it said.

The survey is an annual initiative of Pearson, the world's leading learning company. The survey represents the views of 5,387 teachers across schools and higher education institutions in over 527 cities in the country. The

## DISSATISFACTION WITH INDIAN ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IS HIGHER AT HIGHER-EDUCATION LEVEL (60 %) THAN SCHOOL LEVEL (43%)

survey was conducted between July and August this year. This is the third edition of the survey.

52% of teachers believe that India's education assessment framework lacks specific action points for teachers and parents to enable holistic education. Dissatisfaction with the assessment system in India is much higher at higher-education level (60 %) than school level (43%), the survey said.

According to the survey, over 66 % teachers recommend provision of computer and internet connectivity across institutions and 62 % said that installation of smart boards is a key requirement for integration of ICT in the education system.

# Clarifications Sought on Innovative Varsity Tag

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/Clarifications-Sought-on-Innovative-Varsity-Tag/2015/09/03/article3007896.ece

MYSURU:The University of Mysore (UoM), which is celebrating its centenary this year, has made a strong pitch for World Class Innovative University status, following a recommendation by the Knowledge Commission.

Considering the proposal, the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development recently sought clarifications from the varsity on availability of basic facilities and infrastructure. UoM V-C K S Rangappa told reporters on Wednesday that the University Grants Commission has no role in this matter, but a committee of experts will be formed to study and reply to the queries of the MHRD.

Rangappa said the UGC has in principle approved Rs 10 crore for the heritage status of UoM. The varsity will organise a lecture by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bangladesh, at Crawford Hall at 4 pm on Friday, as part of its centenary celebrations. Yunus, father of both social business and micro credit, is the recipient of 55 honorary degrees from varsities across 20 countries.

Rangappa said Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan will deliver the centenary lecture on December 11 and Richard John Roberts, Nobel laureate in Medicine, will deliver a lecture on December 15.  ISRO chairman Kiran Kumar will speak on the benefits of space technology.

As part of the centenary celebrations, the Department of Studies in Commerce will adopt 100 villages falling in the jurisdiction of UoM covering four districts.

# IISc finds molecule to help cure brain cancer

GLIOBLASTOMA (GBM) IS AN EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE TUMOUR, WITH A SURVIVAL EXPECTANCY OF NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS

 Hindustan Times (Delhi)

NEW DELHI: Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science have identified a potential new drug target for brain cancer.

In a multi-collaborative effort, a group of scientists led by IISc's Prof Kumaravel Somasundaram has uncovered one of the reasons behind glioblastoma's (GBM) — a grade IV brain cancer — resistance to therapy.

They have discovered a new molecule, IGFBP1, involved in glioma angiogenesis.

GBM is an extremely aggressive tumour, with a survival expectancy of not more than two years. GBM's aggressiveness is attributed to high relapse rates in patients, even in those who receive combinatorial radiation and chemotherapy after surgery. The research was fuelled by an effort between four institutes.

Tissue samples of the cancer were provided by the Bengalurubased National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and the Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences.

The analyses of samples and ensuing experiments were conducted at IISc under Somasundaram's guidance. Dr Phillipe Marin from the Institute for Functional Genomics (INSERM, University of Montpellier, France) was also involved in this study.



The study, published in the Jour nal of Biolo gical Sciences, demonstrated how GBM tumours produced high amounts of a protein called MCSF (Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor) which were found to be responsible for the tumour angiogenesis via macrophages/microglial cells.

# IIT-Bombay registers 24% jump in patents in 5 years

Hindustan Times (Bhopal)

Students at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay ( IIT- B), are on an invention spree, with patents for inventions like solar-powered fluid heaters, speech decoding systems and a user-friendly map of Mumbai's rail system jumping by more than 24% this year.



## A TIME FOR DISCOVERY

### SOME INVENTIONS:

**Speech decoding systems** which automatically recognises encrypted speech and decodes it.

**A system to forecast** electricity price as per usage

**A user-friendly map** for Mumbai's suburban railway, which helps users locate their destination, navigate through the rail network.

**A design for a low cost** vein detector which works under very low light is also under process for patenting.

**The R&D office** at the institute said that five applicants have also been filed for copyrighting while one has filed for a trademark.

### FUNDING:

- This year, according to the IIT-B director, a funding of more than ₹250 crore has been received by IIT for research and development. Last year it was ₹216.6 crore

- While most of the money comes from the Centre's funds earmarked for R&D, a large chunk comes from the industry as well

- Companies fund research projects with help of the Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre at the institute which develops online processes for managing and consulting sponsored projects, project accounts, patenting and agreements.

Other inventions include a process for treatment of organic solid waste using special equipment and transport routers — a single networking medium which will revolutionise data usage.

For the academic year of 201415, the institute has registered Speech decoding systems which automatically recognises encrypted speech and decodes it. A system to forecast electricity price as per usage A user-friendly map for Mumbai's suburban railway, which helps users locate their destination, navigate through the rail network. 72 applications for patenting as compared to 58 in 2010-11.

Devang Khakhar, director of IIT-B said that almost all patents have student contributors. Of the 72, 10 patent applications have been filed with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (an international patent law treaty that provides a unified procedure for filing patents), eight of which, have been filed in the US and two in Canada. The Indian patents have also fared well, with six having received approvals and are now available for licensing, said an official from the R&D office at the institute.

Academicians have attributed the rise in number of patA design for a low cost vein detector which works under very low light is also under process for patenting. The R&D office at the institute said that five applicants have also been filed for copyrighting while one has filed for a trademark. ent filing to new steps taken by the institute to encourage students and professors by assessing project work and shortlisting them for possible patent filings each year.

Workshops on intellectual property (IP) rights, process of copyrighting, enhancing innovations have also increased a manifold in the last few years.

Last year, IIT-B set up an inhouse patent search facility so that researchers can assess the novelty of their work. Also, to encourage more patenting, M.Tech students' project works are reviewed in consultation with researchers and experts to test its potential for patenting. This year, according to the IIT-B director, a funding of more than

250 crore has been received by IIT for research and development. Last year it was 216.6 crore While most of the money comes from the Centre's funds earmarked for R&D, a large chunk comes from the industry as well Companies fund research projects with help of the Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre at the institute which develops online processes for managing and consulting sponsored projects, project accounts, patenting and agreements.

# Online test preparation startups prefer young IIT-ians over experienced professors

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/online-test-preparation-startups-prefer-young-iit-ians-over-experienced-professors/articleshow/48780440.cms

CHENNAI: Startups in the online test preparation industry are attempting a strategic change of tack.

Bringing in young IIT-ians for training and tutoring is the new arrow in the quiver for the players, who have been so far hiring experienced professors.

With the number of IIT-JEE registrations in 2015 estimated around 1.2 million, startups dream of better customer acquisition by having talents from India's premier engineering institute on board and choose them over experienced professors feeling the latter is too old-school for a young audience.

Take the case of online training company DigiPerform where the youngest trainer is just 19-years old.

"These people are completely in tune with where the market is going. They don't look or act like teachers, but they have hands-on experience and are very adaptive," said Manu Jolly, CEO of Digiperform which aims to have 20% IIT talent on its team.

Noida-based elearning company iProf too has a seven-membered team of fresh IIT graduates working on content and curation.

"When we are talking about IIT exams and cracking, someone who is more knowledgeable on the latest pattern is valued more compared to someone with experience" said Hannah Arora, vice-president at iProf.

The startup which initially hired experienced teachers, changed the strategy over a period of time finding them not very flexible and "slightly outdated in terms of what the new syllabus is and what really works," says Arora.

But the freshers, according to her, have proved very effective in understanding the mind-set of the aspirants, changing patterns of the questions, packaging of the content and marking a question at a difficulty level.

"These kids are much more flexible in nature, tech-savvy and easier to work with." she said.

While iProf has IIT-ians on payroll with a remuneration 30-40% higher than that of others, those like SuperProfs and Embibe follow a slightly different model of association.

The content sourced from senior professors are vetted by youngsters from IIT either fresh graduates who are permanent staff or students who are interns.

"We have a team from IITBombay who work in the content department.

We also hire 50-100 IIT-ians on a monthly basis to further proof read and verify the content and that number is likely to go extremely high in the coming years," said Aditi Avasthi, CEO, Embibe.

The hired students would mostly be from first or second years as they would be closer to the syllabus according to Avasthi.

"If you look at the graduates or the interns we get, I think the passion for teaching is more among them," she said.

# IIT-Gandhinagar takes fundraising to US, raises Rs 5 crore

## IIT-GN has received about Rs 15 crore through donations since 2009.

http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/iit-gandhinagar-takes-fundraising-to-us-raises-rs-5-crore/

The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) has received about Rs 15 crore through donations since 2009. Of this, it raised Rs 5 crore through IIT Gandhinagar Foundation, its charitable trust based in the US.

Even as the 8 older IITs lead the pack in fund-raising efforts through rich alumni networks, with a bulk of their donations being raised in the US, IIT-GN's Foundation, started in 2010 at Palo Alto, California, has put the institute in a serious fund-raising mode among the newer eight IITs. It hired its first executive director, Rajiv Mistry, in April this year.

"Many older IITs have US Foundations, but IIT-GN is the first and at present the only among the new IITs whose well-wishers have established a charitable foundation in the US. We may be the only IIT to have an executive foundation director. We need the philanthropic funds to enable us to recruit most outstanding faculty and students and to support them beyond what is possible with public funds. Some areas supported by donations at IIT-GN include faculty chairs, research fellowships, travel support for students and faculty to participate in international conferences or to conduct research, entrepreneurial activities, among others," said Sudhir Jain, director at IIT-GN.

However, Jain, who served IIT Kanpur as Dean of Resource Planning and Generation for three years, said that the size of endowment funds was a "small" component of the institute's current corpus. As per officials, IIT-GN

spent close to Rs 640 crore on the new 400-acres Palaj campus, buying new equipment, upgrading laboratories and classrooms in the old campus at the Vishwakarma Government Engineering College (VGEC) through government funds. It moved into the new campus last month.

"We have been successful in raising funds without a strong alumni base. One third of IIT-GN's UG students get international exposure during their studies at IIT-GN at various foreign universities through academic programmes and internships. The Nielsen Company supports our international programmes. Donor funds are used to attract exceptionally talented faculty to the institute," he added.

# IIT-Kgp software to convert Indian languages into Braille

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/iit-kgp-software-to-convert-indian-languages-into-braille-115090200465_1.html

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) have developed a unique technology via a software that enables conversion of Indian languages into Braille for the visually challenged.

The institute is also planning to go for large-scale deployment in West Bengal and other states.

The Sparsha Transliteration System developed by IIT-Kgp's Communication Empowerment Lab, led by Anupam Basu, can accept Indian language texts (such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Oriya, Kannada) as input and convert it into Braille.

"The software takes any Indian language text as input in Unicode and can convert it to Braille and facilitates the production of Braille textbooks," Basu, a professor at IIT-Kgp's department of computer science and engineering, told IANS on Wednesday.

"This helps the visually challenged to access information from a variety of sources," Basu said.

The converted files can be printed out through any Braille embosser (printer for Braille).

IIT-Kgp recently inked a deal with Odisha's Siksha 'O' Anusandhan University to produce necessary Braille books in Odiya through Sparsha.

"It is being used in many places in India and we are planning to go for large-scale deployment. We have talked to blind schools in Bengal and also the Bengal government. We are planning to approach other state governments as well," Basu said.

Among the variety of pioneering and award-winning assistive technologies developed, there is also the 'speech-enabled Baishakhi keyboard' for the blind.

"Using this software, the blind people will be able to type (Bangla and English) and hear what they are typing,' Basu said.

The purpose is that blind students who sit for exams... they need writers... that will no longer be needed. They can use internet, email themselves through the technology," he added.